



COEUR D'ALENE BASIN

News Briefs

October 15, 1999

Issue No. 1

Environmental Protection Agency Highlights

Human Health Risk Assessment - Contact: Sean Sheldrake - 206-553-1220

- 18 common use areas along the Spokane river were sampled recently to provide more information for the Human Health Risk Assessment. Results pending.
- Schools and day cares were sampled in the upper basin this past spring and summer. Results pending.
- Rights-of-Way and residences were sampled from Harrison to Mullan. Results pending.

Ecological Risk Assessment - Contact: Anne Dailey - 206-553-2110

- Concentrations of metals and nutrients were evaluated at 25 locations throughout the basin. Results pending.
- USGS just completed a study to evaluate how metals from the bottom of Lake Coeur d'Alene may move into the water column. Results pending.
- USGS collected stream flow and water quality data at 42 stations within the Coeur d'Alene River Basin during a major snowmelt-runoff event this past spring. During this sampling event, data was collected simultaneously at the stations to provide a comprehensive understanding of river conditions during the event.
- The USGS is studying the interaction between groundwater and surface water (rivers and lakes) in the Basin and how metals may be transported via groundwater.

Cleanup Actions/Removals - Contact: Earl Liverman - 208-664-4858

- Contaminated soil at approximately 17 residential properties in Wallace, Mullan and Osburn will have been removed and replaced by the end of October.
- Eight homes with contaminated drinking water will have clean, alternative sources of drinking water.

- Contaminated soil at Wallace City Park and Wallace Highschool either has been or soon will have be removed and replaced.
- Contaminated soil at Osburn Elementary and Middle Schools either has been or soon will be removed and replaced.
- Cleanup work began this week at two "Common Use Areas" managed by Idaho Fish and Game. The two areas are used as boat launches at Anderson and Thompson Lakes. Cleanup will involve removing contaminated soil, installing riprap and paving certain areas.
- Informational signs for 30 common use areas along the lower Coeur d'Alene River are currently being constructed and are expected to be installed in mid-November.

Other Agency/Entity Highlights

Bureau of Land Management - Contact: David Fortier - 208-769-5022

Performing mine tailings removals at the Liberal King Mill site and in the Highland Creek flood plain, in the Pine Creek drainage. Work will include flood plain restoration and will continue through the fall and possibly next spring.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe - Contact: Phillip Cerner - 208-667-4119

Continuing settlement negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad. Providing technical support for the EPA's Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessments. Participating in global settlement negotiations.

Panhandle Health District- Contact: Jerry Cobb - 208-753-0707

The 1999 Blood Lead Screening is complete. More than 200 children participated.

Silver Valley Natural Resource Trustees - Contact: Marti Calabretta - 208-786-2471

Please refer to attached informational sheet.

.

State of Idaho - Contact: Rob Hansen - 208-373-0290

The State and EPA are negotiating a Cooperative Agreement.

State of Washington - Department of Ecology - Contact: John Roland, Technical Advisor - 509-625-5182

United States Fish and Wildlife Service - Contact: Dan Audet or Julie Campbell - 509-891-6839

Participating in the technical aspects of the Ecological Risk Assessment and the restoration alternatives for the development of the Feasibility Study.

United States Forest Service - Contact: John Specht - 208-752-1221 or Jeff Johnson 208-769-3034

Removal activities have started at the Medimont and Rainy Hill boat launch/camping areas. The removal action at Moon Gulch is expected to be complete in spring 2000.

Calendar of Events

October 14th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. -

Release of the 1999 Blood Lead Screening data during the Bunker Hill Superfund Task Force meeting. Kellogg Middle School Library (800 Bunker Ave, Kellogg, ID)

October 19th, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m -

Washington CAC. Washington Department of Ecology, First Floor Conference Room (4601 N Monroe, Spokane, WA) Use north entrance. The doors are locked after 7:00 p.m., so if you know you will arrive late, contact Michele Nanni at 509-838-4912 prior to the meeting to make arrangements

October 20th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon -

Coeur d'Alene River Basin Commission. Coeur d'Alene Tribal Bingo/Casino (US Highway 95, Worley, ID)

October 22nd, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. -

Silver Valley Clean-Up Tour, Coeur d'Alene Chamber Natural Resource Committee. **Limited to first 20 people, call 208-664-3194 for details.**

November 3rd, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. -

CAC RI/FS Task Force. Rose Lake Historical Society Building (Highway 3, Rose Lake, ID)

November 10th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon -

Coeur d'Alene Basin Interagency Group. Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game Meeting Room (2750 Kathleen Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID)

November 16th, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. -

Washington CAC - Location to be announced – contact Michele Nanni (509) 838-4912 for details.